

Pretrial Motions Set Today In Narcotics Conspiracy Case

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U. S. District Judge Aubrey E. Robinson Jr. will begin hearing pretrial motions today for the second group of defendants in the Lawrence W. (Slippery) Jackson narcotics conspiracy case.

Fourteen defendants in the group are alleged to have directly assisted Jackson in distributing narcotics in the Washington area or to have purchased quantities of narcotics from Jackson's narcotics business enterprise.

Jackson and five other persons were convicted by a federal jury here Dec. 17 in the biggest narcotics conspiracy case in Washington in two dec-

ades. The narcotics operation involved three New York drug suppliers and a telephone sales business run out of a Southeast Washington apartment.

The government's massive evidence in the case was gathered principally through extensive court-ordered wiretaps on telephones at an apartment used by Jackson at 20-53d St. SE and on a phone maintained by Mary P. (Daisy) Davis, who lived at 3676 Hayes St. NE.

More than 50 suspects in the case were arrested in Washington in a series of raids beginning in August, 1969, and 55 were ultimately indicted.

A third and final group of those indicted have been assigned to U.S. District Judge John H. Pratt. That case is ex-

pected to come to trial early next year.

At the center of the case has been the issue of the wiretaps, through which hours of conversations were recorded and preserved in thousands of pages of transcript. The wiretaps, some of which were played at the lengthy trial late last year and early this year, revealed a narcotics sales operation that, in the words of one prosecutor, worked in a way that was "just like calling up Chicken Delight."

Robinson ruled on Sept. 21, 1970, after almost six weeks of continuous pretrial hearing on the wiretap issue, that the gov-

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ernment had reacted properly in obtaining them.

Those hearings were closed to the public and the press, primarily because government prosecutors felt that publicity about the wiretaps and the material uncovered by them would make it impossible to select an impartial jury for the trial.

While the motions that will

be heard today are sealed and not open to the public, legal sources close to the case said that a motion to suppress the wiretapped material will again be heard before Robinson.

Two members of the second group, in which 16 persons were originally indicted in December, 1969 have been murdered: Charles E. (Popeye) Hailes, shot to death during the first week of the trial by Mace Brown, a Newark, N.J.,

man with a string of narcotics convictions; and Harry W. Hawkins, 35.

The other defendants are: Alan V. Roberson, Richard M. James, William D. Petersom, Raymond L. Adams, Rosa M. Pitts, Sylvester L. Walker, Paullon E. Williams, Lester Jackson, Theodore Diggs, Oscar Sparrow, William C. Hairston Aubrey M. Duncan, and Clarence L. (Gumdrop) Butler.